

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION
March 7, 2014
Division: Wildlife

Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:300

Regular or Emergency: Regular

Proposed Recommendation: Bear Chase Season Recommendations

A) Purchase Requirements for Bear Chase Permits

The Wildlife Division recommended changing the timeframe that Bear Chase Permits may be purchased from July 1 – Aug 31, to July 1 – the close of the bear quota hunt with dogs.

Justification: Since 2012, bear chase permits have been available for purchase from July – the close of the chase-only season (Aug 31). The Wildlife Division would like to extend this period through the bear quota hunt with dogs to accomplish 2 goals:

- 1) Allow persons to buy a bear chase permit through September so they may apply for the December quota hunt with dogs; and
- 2) Enable youth the opportunity to buy a chase permit later in the year so that they may accompany houndsmen during the quota hunt with dogs in December.

B) Bear Quota Hunt with Dogs Season Dates

The Wildlife Division recommended moving the 5-day bear quota hunt with dogs from the existing (Mon-Fri) period around Christmas.

The Wildlife Division received requests from houndsmen to move the 5-day dog season away from the week that spans Christmas in order to increase hunting opportunity. Currently, the overlap with the holiday season limits participation due to family and/or religious obligations associated with Christmas. The Wildlife Division has no objection to this change and proposes that the season be moved one week earlier to avoid this conflict. As requested by the Commission, the Wildlife Division will provide possible alternative dates during the March Commission Meeting.

Effective Date: August 2014

Action Requested of Commission:

☒ **File the Regulation**

☐ **Other:** _____

Action Taken by Commission:

☐ **File the Regulation**

☐ **Other:** _____

Motion made by: _____

Motion Seconded by: _____

Action: Approved Denied Referred back to Committee

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Proposed Recommendation: Clean-up Item Regarding Weapon Restrictions

The Wildlife and Law Enforcement Divisions requested to amend weapon restrictions relating to all hunting regulations so as to identify what a person "shall use", as opposed to "shall not use", when hunting a given species.

A) Clean-up Item Regarding Handgun Restrictions

Currently, 301 KAR 2:300 "Black bear seasons and requirements" describes handgun restriction as follows:

Section 7. Weapon Restrictions.

(2) A bear shall not be taken with a handgun that does not:

- (a) Have a barrel length of at least six (6) inches;
- (b) Have a bore diameter of at least 0.270 inches; or
- (c) Fire a bullet that produces at least 550 ft/lbs of energy at 100 yards.

Justification: Law Enforcement and Wildlife Divisions agree that subsection (a) is unnecessary as restrictions on barrel length are overly restrictive. Likewise, subsection (c) is largely unenforceable as this parameter cannot be measured in the field.

Therefore, the Wildlife and Law Enforcement Divisions proposed to amend 301 KAR 2:300 with changes that will maintain sufficient requirements for handguns, while providing restrictions that are enforceable in the field. The proposed changes will be worded to require the following:

Section 7. Weapon Restrictions.

(2) A bear shall only be taken with a handgun that uses:

- (a) Centerfire cartridges;
- (b) Bullets of 0.270 caliber or larger designed to expand upon impact; and
- (c) Bullets with a case length of at least 1.285 inches.

B) Use of Air Guns to Harvest Black Bears

The Wildlife Committee voted to discuss the use of air guns to take black bears with the full Commission during the March Commission meeting.

Justification: The regulatory cleanup of 301 KAR 2:300 as described in part A of this discussion item will require a decision to be made regarding the use of air guns as a legal weapon to take black bears. The primary factor to consider in this discussion is the ability of air guns to deliver an ethical kill shot to such a large-bodied species. If the Commission does approve air guns as a legal

weapon for bears, the Wildlife and Law Enforcement Divisions recommend the use of pellets only with a minimum caliber restriction.

Note: Weapon restriction amendments to identify what a person "shall use", as opposed to "shall not use", will be addressed for all applicable hunting regulations as necessary when they are opened in the immediate future (i.e., deer and elk).

Effective Date: August 2014

Action Requested of Commission:	Action Taken by Commission:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Motion made by: _____	
Motion Seconded by: _____	
Action: Approved Denied Referred back to Committee	